

REIGATE RURAL DISTRICT.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

A. E. PORTER, M.A., M.D., D.P.H.,

TOGETHER WITH THE

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Sanitary Inspector,

F. E. TRAVISS,

1921

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REIGATE RURAL DISTRICT.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the year 1921.

To the Chairman and Members of the District Council.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my sixteenth annual report, which is prepared in accordance with the Circular of the Ministry of Health, dated the 28th December, 1921. The particulars required differ materially from those asked for in the two preceding years, details as to conditions which do not vary being omitted. It is the intention of the Ministry to ask for a fuller "Survey Report" at intervals of not more than five years, "Ordinary Reports" being sufficient between these intervals.

The detailed figures for this District of the Census of 1921 are not yet available, and any comment, which may be desirable, must be postponed till next year. 1921 has been chiefly remarkable for the unprecedented low general death rate (7.8 per 1,000 population), a figure which may possibly be equalled in some future year, but which will certainly not be maintained continuously.

Steady progress has been made with systematic inspections of various premises in the District.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ARTHUR E. PORTER,

Medical Officer of Health.

Reigate,

29th March, 1921,

SECTION I.

General Statistics.

Area (acres) 44,651 (including inland water).

Population (1921) 22,440.

No. of inhabited houses (1921) unknown.

No. of families or separate occupiers (1921) not yet published.

Rateable value £213,169.

Sum represented by a penny rate £820.

SECTION II.

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year.

Births { Legitimate ... 337 — (Males 170, Females 167).
 { Illegitimate ... 19 — (Males 8, Females 11).

Birth-rate, 1921 ... 15.9 per 1,000 population.

Do. 1920 ... 22.4 „ „

Do. 5 years 1916—20 15.6 „ „

Deaths (nett) 176. (Males 81, Females 95.)

Death-rate, 1921 ... 7.8 per 1,000 population.

Do. 1920 ... 10.8 „ „

Do. 5 years 1916—20 11.7 „ „

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of childbirth :—

From Sepsis ... Nil.

„ other causes ... 2.

Deaths of infants under one year of age, per 1,000 births :—

Legitimate ... 39. Illegitimate ... 158. Total 45

Infant mortality (total) 1920 ... „ 33

„ „ 5 years 1916—20 „ 55

Deaths from measles (all ages) ... Nil.

„ „ whooping cough (all ages) ... Nil.

„ „ diarrhoea (under two years of age) 2.

With regard to the above statistics the following points may be noted :—

Population.—The figure used in calculating birth and death rates is the estimated population at the end of the second quarter of the year. The 1921 Census was taken on the 19th June. Consequently a small increase is necessary. Moreover, at this season of the year an appreciable number of people were away on holiday, and certain adjustments have been made by the Registrar-General. The estimated population in the middle of 1911 was slightly over 21,200, and there has therefore been an increase of 1,200 during the ten years. As I had anticipated, the populations, as estimated by the Registrar-General from 1917 onwards, were below the proper figures, and the birth and death rates as stated in my annual reports for those years were too high. The estimated population for 1920, for instance, was 20,331, but there has certainly not been an increase of nearly 900 during the twelve months.

Births.—The total births actually registered were 329, but there were a number of mothers confined outside the district (*e.g.*, the Guardians' Institution, the County Maternity Home), and the nett births are therefore raised to 356. The abnormally high rate of 1920 would obviously not be maintained, and the births in 1921 approximate more closely to those in 1912 and 1914, but there appears to be a tendency towards a progressive decrease below even those comparatively small figures.

Deaths.—The Registrar-General credits the District with 177 nett deaths, including one from diphtheria. My own figure is 176, and, since no death from diphtheria occurred in 1921, I have adopted the lower figure. The deaths are carefully checked at the end of each quarter, after the "inward and outward transfers" have been agreed upon. Whichever figure is correct, the death rate is the lowest ever recorded in the District, the next lowest being 8.9 in 1905.

Before that date it had never reached single figures, the records going back to 1874. The actual number of deaths in 1921 was also lower than that for any year since 1905. The only important cause of death in 1921 which was not materially below the average for preceding years was malignant disease. The low figure will certainly not be maintained. In part it tended to balance the heavy mortality in 1917 and 1918, but the mild winter, and the absence of a severe type of influenza were largely responsible, deaths from influenza and diseases of the heart and organs of respiration being considerably fewer than usual. There were no deaths from measles, whooping cough, diphtheria or scarlet fever. Deaths among persons of 65 years of age and upwards formed 47.5 per cent. of the total, and those among persons of 80 years and upwards 15.3 per cent. The excess of births over deaths was 180.

Infant Mortality.—The rate rose to 45 from the abnormally low figure of 33 in 1920. There were actually 16 deaths of infants below the age of twelve months as against 15 in 1920, but the mortality is calculated on the number of births registered during the year. Eight of the deaths, or exactly one-half, were due to prematurity at birth, and there were two further deaths from congenital defects. One death was due to the “wilful murder” of an illegitimate baby by an unknown person, and one to overlying. One was probably due to congenital syphilis, leaving only three from post-natal causes which are theoretically preventable, namely one from broncho-pneumonia, and two from diarrhoea. Of the last two, one occurred whilst the infant was staying with friends in London: the other took place in March at the age of 5 weeks, the baby being one of a large family with somewhat thriftless and careless parents: she had been fed partly by breast and partly by bottle. Four out of the 16 deaths occurred outside the district. Of the three deaths among illegitimate infants one was due to premature birth, one to “murder,” and one to congenital syphilis, and

although the mortality was as high as 158 (compared with 39 among legitimate babies), there is no practical lesson to be derived from the figures.

In England and Wales during 1921 the birth-rate was 22.4 and the death-rate 12.1 per 1,000 population. The infant mortality was 83 per 1,000 births.

SECTION III.

The Communicable Diseases.

1. Notifiable Diseases.

The subjoined table shows the incidence of these diseases on the various Civil Parishes, and Tables I. and II. the age periods at which they occurred. Gatton was the only parish to escape entirely.

PARISH.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Erysipelas.	Enteric Fever.	Pneumonia	Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	Dysentery	Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	Other forms of Tuberculosis.
Betchworth	...	2	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Buckland	4	3	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Burstow ...	12	1	1	...	...	...	...	1	...
Chaldon ...	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Charlwood	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chipstead...	...	...	1	...	2	...	...	1	...
Horley ...	15	4	1	...	...	...	...	5	1
Kingswood	4	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Leigh ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Merstham ..	6	2	1	...	2	...	29	1	1
Nutfield ...	10	12	...	1	...	...	...	3	2
Walton-on-the-Hill..	3	1	...	...	2	...	...	1	1
Total ...	65	25	5	1	6	1	29	13	6

Scarlet Fever.—Including 4 patients found during the course of enquiries, and not under medical care, there were 65 cases in 48 families during the year. This compares with

64 in 1920. It has only been exceeded once since 1905, namely in 1909, when there were 68 cases. In 1907 there were 65. The average annual number of notifications in the 15 years 1906—20 is slightly under 42. The prevalence in 1920 and 1921 cannot be considered excessive in view of the extensive epidemic which was occurring in Greater London during the period, and the continuous facilities which exist for introducing the infection. While the parishes of Burstow and Horley contributed the majority of the cases, the only connected outbreak of any size occurred in South Nutfield: ten patients in 7 different houses were attacked between the 13th February and 15th March.

In September, October and November there were a few cases in three Buckland families, the original source of infection not being discovered. Three children in two families, without medical advice, were found to be suffering from suspicious illness, which proved to be scarlet fever. A similar case was found at Lower Kingswood earlier in the year. Sixty-one cases were removed to hospital, and there were no deaths.

Return Cases.—There were four instances in which scarlet fever occurred in houses to which convalescent patients had been discharged from hospital. The intervals between the events were 5 weeks, 14 weeks, $10\frac{1}{2}$ months and 11 months respectively. In the last-mentioned instance the second attack was in all probability a coincidence. There were 56 patients discharged from hospital during the year, and consequently the percentage of return cases (assuming that the other three were genuine instances) to discharges was approximately 5.

Concurrent Diphtheria Infection.—Towards the end of the year one of the patients who had nasal discharge on admission, was found to have the diphtheria bacillus present in the nose, and all the scarlet fever patients then in hospital and afterwards admitted, fourteen in number, had their throats and noses examined. Four further positive results were obtained, three from the nose and one from the throat: the diphtheria carriers were separated from those with simple infection.

TABLE I.

Ages.	Diphtheria.		Scarlet Fever.		Enteric Fever.		Pneumonia.		Dysentery.		Erysipelas.	
	Cases notified	Cases removed to hospitl.	Deaths	Cases notified	Cases removed to hospitl.	Deaths	Cases notified	Cases removed to hospitl.	Deaths	Cases removed to hospitl.	Cases notified	Deaths
0-1											1	
1-2												
2-3				1								
3-4	1			2								
4-5				3								
5-10	9			26								
10-15	10			23								
15-20	3			2	1							
20-35	2			6			2				8	
35-45				2			1				6	
45-65							2		3		10	3
over 65							1		3		5	3
Total :	25	23	Nil.	65	61	Nil.	1	1	Nil.	7	29	6
								Nil.		Nil.	5	Nil.
												Nil.

Diphtheria.—There were 19 cases notified by doctors, 4 swabbed in school by myself and 2 found by visiting children kept away from school without medical advice, making 25 cases in 24 families. Twenty-three were removed to hospital. There were no deaths. The total is somewhat above the annual average (slightly under 20) for the preceding fifteen years, but less than the 28 enumerated in 1920. It was principally derived from an outbreak in Nutfield parish, extending from the 26th August to the 9th December, and involving 12 cases in the same number of dwellings: there were found in addition six carriers in three of the infected houses. Two of the patients were identified by examining children who were away from school ill, but not under medical care. All but three of the twelve were children attending either the mixed or infant school in Nutfield. As fresh cases occurred after the detection of the missed attacks and the carriers, the school was closed on the 8th November till the Christmas holidays, and a representative of each family took home a circular calling the attention of parents to the necessity of being on the watch for suspicious symptoms. Locally it was believed that the infection had been introduced into the parish by children from London, housed during a portion of the summer holidays in the village school.

A small outbreak in Salfords school occurring in October was apparently originated by a girl of 8, whom I found in school with a sore nose: bacteriological examination showed the presence of diphtheria bacilli. She had had diphtheria in 1919: in 1920 she had a sore nose giving similar bacteriological results, and was probably the source of a similar outbreak in the school. A brother aged 12 had the bacillus in the nose in 1921, and was removed to hospital in 1920 for the same condition. In both years the outbreak ceased with the removal of these children. It will be interesting to observe whether this family is again associated with a school outbreak of diphtheria.

Carriers.—Excluding the five scarlet fever patients with concurrent diphtheria infection 13 carriers, with no obvious abnormal conditions of throat and nose, were found out of 23 contacts examined in infected houses. Six had the infection in the nose alone, three in the throat alone, and four in both nose and throat. All were removed to hospital.

Chronic Infection.—Only one instance occurred, a girl aged 9, who was attacked with diphtheria on the 12th March. She was removed from hospital by the parents' wish on the 11th June, with the infection still present in the throat, the nose being apparently clear. Positive results were obtained consistently from the throat on July 7 and 27, August 27, September 20, October 20, November 18 and December 21. Beyond a very slight enlargement of the tonsils there was no unhealthy appearance about the throat. A negative result was not obtained until January 30th of the present year. The infection had thus persisted for upwards of 41 weeks.

Pneumonia.—Two of the six cases were inmates of Netherne Asylum. The remainder required no action from the Local Authority.

Dysentery.—All the 29 cases were inmates of Netherne Asylum.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.—The one infant notified to be suffering from this disease was removed to the Infirmary, and made a complete recovery.

Enteric Fever.—The patient was in service in Cirencester, returning home for a holiday in the early stage of the disease.

Tuberculosis.—The 13 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis shown in the sub-joined table include one for which no official notification was received, but whose removal to an institution was reported by the County Medical Officer of Health. Similarly primary notifications of two of the 6 cases of other forms of tubercle were not received. The organs affected were the glands of the neck in four instances, the mesenteric

glands once, and an ankle joint once. These unnotified cases were presumably under the supervision of the Tuberculosis Officer.

Possibly private arrangements for institutional treatment were made in other instances. "Hospital" here includes sanatoria and the Union Infirmary.

The deaths from tuberculosis of the lungs amounted to 12, but mostly refer to cases notified in preceeding years. One death occurred from tuberculosis of the spine. All the deaths occurred among patients previously notified.

Apart from the instances referred to, where the first intimation of a case of tuberculosis is removal to a sanatorium, it is somewhat rare for notification to be overlooked.

TABLE II.

Age.	Preliminary. *						Non-Preliminary.					
	Cases notified.		Cases addmitted to hospital.		Total Deths.		Cases notified.		Cases admitted to hospital.		Total Dea ths.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
under 1												
1-2							2					
2-3												
3-4												
4-5												
5-10		1					1					
10-15							1	1				
15-20							1					
20-35	4	5			4						1	
35-45		1			2	3						
45-65	1	1				2						
over 65						1						
Total :	5	8	3	1	6	6	5	1	0	0	1	0

2. Non-notifiable Diseases.

Influenza.—Fourteen deaths were ascribed to this disease, 5 in the first quarter, 4 in the second, 1 in the third, and 4 in the fourth quarter. The majority of these occurred in the practice of one practitioner, who includes influenza in his certificate more frequently than the others practising in the district. There was no necessity for any action to be taken by the Local Authority.

Measles, etc.—The following cases were notified from the schools :—measles 20, whooping cough 13, chicken-pox 118, mumps 2, sore throat 4, ringworm 2, scabies 2, and impetigo 2. There were no deaths from any of these diseases for the second year in succession. There was a considerable outbreak of whooping cough at Outwood, necessitating the closure of the school from the 7th October to the 18th November. Odd cases of the disease occurred at Betchworth, Brockham and Smallfield. Measles appears to have been confined to Nutfield and South Nutfield. Chickenpox was principally prevalent in Horley, but was present also in Brockham, Chipstead, Merstham, Nutfield, South Nutfield and Salfords.

SECTION IV.

Causes of Sickness.

As might be expected from the low mortality figures, no causes of sickness or invalidity were especially prominent during the year.

SECTION V.

Nursing Arrangements, Hospitals and other Institutions available for the District.

Professional Nursing in the Home.

(a) **General.**—The following parishes have Nursing Associations affiliated to the County Nursing Association :—Charlwood, Chipstead, Merstham, Outwood and Walton-on-the-Hill, whilst Associations not affiliated serve Betchworth, Brockham, Horley, Kingswood, Salfords and Smallfield. In South Nutfield there is a village nurse in private practice, the most northern portion of the parish of Nutfield being visited by the Merstham nurse. Caterham nurses attend patients in Chaldon, and nurses from the Reigate, Redhill and District Nursing Association go to Buckland. Gatton is visited by the Chipstead and Merstham nurses. In Leigh a

nurse, retained by a resident, is available for the village. In the Copthorne portion of Burstow parish patients are attended by a District Nurse from the Sussex portion of the village.

(b) **For Infectious Diseases.**—There is no special provision: nurses of the various Associations are usually debarred from attending the common infectious diseases of childhood.

None of the Associations are subsidised by the District Council. The affiliated ones probably receive grants from the County Association, which in turn is subsidised by the County Council.

Midwives.—The District Nurses of the affiliated Associations, as well as those in Kingswood and Salfords, act as midwives. A few confinements are attended by the South Nutfield nurse, and by midwives living in the Borough of Reigate. Ten midwives residing in the District gave notice of their intention to practice, but the number actually attending confinements in 1921 was 8.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

The following Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics within the District are managed by Voluntary Committees, rent, light and heating being paid for by the County Council:

Parish.	Situation.	Accommodation.	Sessions held.	Doctor.
Horley ...	... Technical Institute	Three Rooms	... Fortnightly	... Fortnightly.
Kingswood	... Reading Room	One Room	... Fortnightly	... Monthly.
Walton on the Hill	Old Mission Hall	Two Rooms	... Fortnightly	... Monthly.

The Kingswood Centre is being abandoned on account of smallness of attendances.

For the areas adjoining the Borough of Reigate, the Centre provided by the Borough Council is available, medical consultations being held twice a week. The Dorking and Bletchingley Centres serve neighbouring parishes in Reigate Rural District.

A weighing centre is held at Salfords in the house of a resident once a fortnight.

(c) **School Clinics.**—The only school clinic in the district is in Horley at the Technical Institute.

(d) **Tuberculosis.**—The County Dispensary for the district is situated in Redhill.

(e) **Day Nurseries : Venereal Disease Clinics.**—There are none in the neighbourhood.

Hospitals provided or subsidised by the Local Authority or County Council.

(1) **Tuberculosis.**—Patients are sent at the cost of the County Council to 13 sanatoria and 12 hospitals situated in different parts of the country.

(2) **Maternity.**—The Surrey County Nursing Association have a Maternity Home situated in Redhill, with accommodation for six patients.

(3) **Children.**—None.

(4) **Fever.**—The District Council's hospital is situated in the northern part of Horley parish and contains beds for about 12 scarlet fever, and 12 diphtheria patients.

(5) **Smallpox.**—The district is one of the contributory Authorities of a Hospital District, with the nucleus of a hospital at Clandon, near Guildford.

(6) **Others.**—The Reigate and Redhill Hospital and the Horley Cottage Hospital are available for the inhabitants of the District. Neither is subsidised from the rates.

Institutional Provision for Unmarried Mothers, Illegitimate Infants and Homeless Children in the District.—None.

Ambulance Facilities.—(a) For infectious cases. The Council's ambulance is horsed by contract, and stationed at the hospital.

(b) For non-infectious and accident cases. There are none in the district. Facilities are available in the Borough of Reigate.

Notification of Births.—The nett births registered in 1921 were 329, rising to 356 when corrected for births occurring

outside the district in respect of mothers belonging thereto, and vice versa. There were 323 births notified, 224 by doctors, 96 by nurses or midwives, and 3 by both nurses and doctors : this number, however, includes births occurring in a maternity home in Redhill, and which were probably registered in the Borough of Reigate. Actually 19 births which occurred in the district during 1921, and which were subsequently registered, remained unnotified. Of these 10 occurred in large residences, 8 in cottages, the remaining one referring to a gipsy, who received no skilled attention.

Stillbirths.—Ten were notified during the year, 6 by doctors, 2 by nurses or midwives, and 1 by a doctor and nurse.

SECTION VI.

Laboratory Work.

The following shows the specimens examined for the diphtheria bacillus by the Medical Officer of Health :—

				Diphtheria bacillus found.	Diphtheria bacillus not found.	Hofmann's bacillus found.
Suspected diphtheria	...	...	...	24	62	6
Convalescent diphtheria	...	...	...	22	87	16
Contact diphtheria	...	...	...	13	29	2
Total :				59	178	24

One specimen of sputum was examined for the tubercle bacillus with a negative result.

Diphtheria Antitoxin.—Arrangements for supplying serum gratuitously to medical practitioners are in force, but no issue was required during the year.

Sale of Food and Drugs Act.—The County Inspector took 65 samples (3 informal) in the district. These consisted of milk (44), butter (3), cheese (3), margarine (1), lard (1), confectionery and jam (1), beer (2), spirits (2), and other articles (8). Six of the milk samples were adulterated and one prosecution resulted, which was successful. One of the samples of spirits was adulterated, the consequent prosecution being unsuccessful.

SECTION VII.

Sanitary Administration.

Adoptive Acts, Bye-laws and Regulations, relating to the Public Health, in force in the District.

The Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890	adopted	1891
The Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890 (parts)	,,	1891
„ „ „ „ „	„	1907 (parts) „ 1908
The Private Street Works Act, 1892 (portions of Betchworth, Horley, Merstham, Nutfield and Walton-on-the-Hill).		
Bye-laws with respect to new streets & buildings	adopted	1905
„ „ „ tents, vans, sheds, &c.	,,	1900
„ „ „ nuisances	,,	1887
„ „ „ slaughter-houses	,,	1887
„ „ „ hop pickers, &c.	,,	1888
Regulations „ „ dairies, cowsheds & milkshops	,,	1899

Summary of Work of the Sanitary Department during the Year, and Action taken under the Public Health Acts, etc.

The report of the Sanitary Inspector, showing in detail the work carried out during the year, is bound with this. The following is a summary :—

Inspections (including re-inspections) :

Dwelling houses	...	...	1,968
Dairies, cowsheds and milkshops	...	...	328
Slaughter-houses	...	...	162
Factories and workshops	...	...	188

Notices served.	<i>Served</i>	<i>Complied with</i>
Preliminary	... 227	208
Statutory ...	... 33	33

Inspection of places where food is prepared.—Dairies, slaughter-houses and bakehouses are further referred to in the Sanitary Inspector's report. Apart from these, there are practically no other premises under this heading.

Number and Condition of Slaughter-houses.

Including one recently established knackery yard, there are now 15 slaughter-houses, 3 being registered and 12 licensed annually. Structurally all, with one exception are satisfactory, and all are well attended to.

Arrangements for disinfection and disinfestation.—All textile articles requiring disinfection are dealt with in a “Thresh” steam disinfector at the Council’s isolation hospital. During the year 360 journeys were made, 170 mattresses and 1,495 other articles being sent through the apparatus. Disinfections were carried out as follows :—scarlet fever 54, diphtheria 38, tuberculosis 19, vermin 5, schools 3, scabies 2, measles 2, cancer 2, enteric fever 1.

There is no provision for the disinfestation of persons.

Disinfection in the houses is carried out by the Council’s officer.

Action under Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Orders.—

One statutory notice, requiring structural alterations, was served and complied with.

Factories and Workshops.

The usual particulars are contained in the Sanitary Inspector’s report.

SECTION VIII.

Public Health Staff.

The Medical Officer of Health serves the Reigate Borough Council in the same capacity, and carries out certain chemical and bacteriological work for both Authorities.

The Sanitary Inspector and Assistant Sanitary Inspector devote their whole time to the service of the Council. The former holds the Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute for meat and foods, as well as the customary one. Contributions towards the salaries of the Medical Officer of Health and the Sanitary Inspector are made from the Imperial Exchequer.

Two Health Visitors, dividing the district between them, and acting also as school and tuberculosis nurses, are provided by the County Council. In Chipstead and Merstham infant welfare visiting is carried out by the District Nurses. All four report periodically to the Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION IX.

Housing.

Number of new houses erected (*i.e.* completed) during the year.—The Surveyor informs me that 80 houses were completed under his supervision, namely 9 in Betchworth, 7 in Burstow, 15 in Chaldon, 4 in Charlwood, 3 in Chipstead, 16 in Horley, 7 in Kingswood, 1 in Leigh, 12 in Merstham, 1 in Nutfield, and 5 in Walton-on-the-Hill. There were in addition 6 cottages in Horley and 8 in Merstham forming part of the original Council scheme. Of the Horley cottages 2 are of the non-parlour and 4 of the parlour type, letting respectively at 7/- and 9/-. Of the Merstham cottages the numbers of the two types are non-parlour 2 at 9/6, and parlour 6 at 11/6.

Out of the remaining 80 only 9 are working-class dwellings, the others being principally of the bungalow type.

1. Unfit dwelling houses.

(a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... 469

(b) Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910 ... 469

(c) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... 1

(d) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of that referred to under c) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... 227

2. Remedy of Defects without service of formal notices.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 208

3. Action under Statutory Powers.

A. Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1919.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 1

(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit :—

(a) By owners 1

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners Nil.

(3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close Nil.

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwellings in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... 33

(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit :—

(a) By owners 33

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners Nil.

C. Proceedings under Sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1909.

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders 1

(2) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made 1

(3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling houses having been rendered fit 1

(4) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made Nil.

(5) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders Nil.

REIGATE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Sanitary Inspector

For the Year ended December 31st, 1921.

BANK CHAMBERS,

CHURCH STREET, REIGATE,

January, 1922.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Reigate Rural District Council.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I submit, for your consideration, my Second Annual Report of the work carried out in the Sanitary Department, during the year ended 31st December, 1921.

The periodical inspection of the whole District has been continued, as was done last year, and as required by the Public Health Acts, and Orders, of the Ministry of Health.

Housing of the Working Classes.

During the year 469 Housing Inspections were made, under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, as follows :—

Parish.	Number of Inspections.			
Betchworth ...	...	...	...	64
Buckland ...	...	...	...	1
Burstow ...	...	...	...	17
Chaldon ...	...	...	...	9
Charlwood ...	...	...	...	40
Chipstead and Gatton ...	...	...	...	—
Horley ...	...	...	...	129
Kingswood ...	...	...	...	27
Leigh ...	...	...	...	8
Merstham ...	...	...	...	61
Nutfield ...	...	...	...	11
Walton-on-the-Hill ...	...	...	...	102

Records were completed in each case, and filed for future reference. Together with those of 1920, there are now 1,057 Records of Inspection in existence. Considerable progress has been made in this branch of the work, and I am hoping to obtain a complete record of some of the Parishes within the next year or two.

227 Preliminary Notices, and 33 Statutory Notices, were served during the year, and with the exception of 19 Preliminary Notices, (served in the last two or three months) all have been complied with.

One Closing Order was made, but the cottage was subsequently rendered fit for habitation, and the Order was withdrawn.

Several Statutory Notices served contained matters which it was considered would not permit of long delay, and it was on this ground that they were deemed necessary.

The Increase of Rent etc. (Restriction) Act, brought in its wake a budget of correspondence from dissatisfied tenants. On enquiry, however, things were found not of so serious a nature as they were first thought to be. It was only human nature that the grumble should come from the tenant, whose rent suddenly began to soar, after years of quiescence.

Shortage of housing accommodation is apparent in several parishes, owing to the number of cases of overcrowding which exist, and for which there is at present no remedy. Several of these cases are where two families reside in the one house, but there are also instances of families outgrowing the particular cottage, with no hope at present of getting increased accommodation. This is undoubtedly a serious question, and should not be lightly pigeon-holed.

With the fall in prices of building materials and labour, private enterprise will probably come to the rescue at no great distant date.

A word of appreciation will not be out of place in this Report, to property owners generally.

Invariably I have found that my requests to them to effect repairs, cleansing, or structural alterations, have been met with a broad mind. Frequently, on re-inspection, work

is observed to be in hand in addition to that contained in my original notice.

The policy of give and take continues to work admirably.

In some cases, where a state of dilapidation has been found, the all-too-apparent reason for the neglect of the tenant to call the landlord's attention to it is the fear (frequently groundless) of an immediate and unreasonable increase in rent.

During August the water supply to several houses in Wheelers Lane and Gadbrook Lane, Brockham, in the Parish of Betchworth, gave out, owing to the abnormally dry Summer. The water in these portions of the District is derived from wells and ponds.

In September the Council decided to inaugurate an emergency supply from the East Surrey Water Company's mains, and with that Company's permission, this was done. At first three visits per week were paid; but these were gradually reduced to one only. It was not until January

that the emergency supply could be reasonably discontinued, so abnormally dry was the season.

All those receiving the benefit of this supply have expressed their gratitude to the Council for their kind consideration in tiding them over what would have otherwise been an exceedingly anxious time.

On the 7th September I was appointed Collector of the Rents of the Council's Cottages at Merstham and Ironsbottom (Horley).

The tenants of these cottages appear to fully appreciate their new homes, but it is yet early to comment on the amount of care and attention paid by them to the cottages.

SCAVENGING AND CLEANSING.

Betchworth.

The work of cleansing of cesspools and pail closets in the Parish of Betchworth is undertaken by the Council and carried out by a local contractor.

Tenders were advertised for in March, and in reply two were received. The lowest was accepted and this shewed a saving on the rates of £250 as compared with the previous year, which amount represents a reduction of over 5d. in the £ on the special rate for that Parish.

With the fall in prices continuing and a strict supervision of the work in progress I am hoping to shew a still further reduction this coming year when tenders are again advertised for.

During the year 411 cesspools were emptied, and 13,128 pails cleansed—a slight increase in numbers as compared with 1920. A complete list is kept in each case and a strict rotation of the work is maintained. Under this system no single complaint was received.

An agitation was started for the provision of a public sewer for the Brockham portion of the Parish during the latter half of the year.

Before, however, actual facts can be gathered for the Council's consideration, it would appear to be somewhat premature.

I propose presenting a Report eventually, on the conditions as they exist, when it will then be possible for you to go more deeply into the necessity for such a scheme.

Horley and Merstham.

The collection and removal of house refuse is undertaken by the Council in these two Parishes, and carried out by local contractors.

The whole of the refuse is deposited at the respective Sewage Farms.

At Horley the contractor is engaged during the whole of each week, and a fortnightly collection was maintained.

Owing to the large increase in the number of householders desiring to avail themselves of the privilege of having their house refuse removed, I found it necessary to obtain permission of the Council to employ an additional man, horse and van as occasion required.

A complete canvas of the Horley district was made and at the end of the year 697 houses were on the list for

collection—a considerable increase as compared with last year.

At Merstham a weekly collection is made during the months of June, July, August and September, and a fortnightly collection during the rest of the year. This is carried out in approximately two days by the contractor.

In all three Parishes (Betchworth, Horley and Merstham) the work has been performed by the respective contractors in a conscientious manner. The year has passed without a serious complaint being received, and I have found the contractors always ready and willing to assist me in cases where emergency rendered it necessary to request them to do additional work.

General District.

The cesspool emptying apparatus belonging to the Council for the use of the General District (with the exception of one hand pump kept at Walton-on-the-Hill for emergency purposes) is stored at Merstham Sewage Farm.

This apparatus is let on hire within the District at a small nominal charge.

An inventory is taken and an examination made every half-year of all cesspool apparatus so as to ensure its being kept and maintained in proper order.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.

The Register now contains the names of 139 dairymen, cow-keepers and milksellers—an increase over last year of 18. This number includes the names of nine purveyors of milk only.

328 inspections were made. Owing to the drought it was impossible for a large number of cow-keepers to maintain the ordinary standard of cleanliness. In some cases, however, this excuse could not be tolerated, as the premises presented a picture of neglect rather than hardships through lack of an adequate water supply. Notices were served in these instances, and an improvement was not long in being brought about.

Cleanliness of Milk.

Several complaints of dirty milk were received and investigated.

Farmers engaged in milk production, where such complaints arise, are impressed as far as possible with the necessity of considering it their duty, both to themselves and the community at large, of supplying clean milk and keeping only healthy cows, in clean and comfortable quarters.

Cowmen, and those persons handling milk, sometimes fail to realize that the product they deal in is easily contaminated ; and that they should take every precaution to prevent it becoming a source of public danger.

Cleanliness is, of course, not an absolute safeguard against disease, but it is a great factor in preventing contamination. Clean methods of milking would probably eliminate a large proportion of the Tubercle Bacilli found in milk, since it is probable that a great many of them come from the excreta of the cow—a fact which has hardly been realized yet.

The cleaner the milk the longer it will remain sweet. In modern dairies a machine called a “clarifier” is used. This is a centrifugal machine used to remove visible dirt from the milk. There are several different types which do very efficient work.

Some communicable diseases, which do not originate from the cow, may be carried in milk. The bacteria causing these diseases, drop into the milk ; are introduced unknowingly by the milker ; from contaminated milk-vessels ; and by flies. The result is a “milk borne” epidemic of varying proportions.

From this it would appear that only healthy persons should be occupied in milk production.

With reference to contamination of milk by flies—I have observed in several cowsheds in the Summer time a rather prolific supply of spiders’ webs, attached to the rafters inside. These webs are apparently omitted to be removed in the ordinary cleansing process. On enquiry I learned that they are purposely left, to act as “fly-traps.” On closer inspection it certainly appeared that such was the case, and also that very few flies were to be seen on or about other parts of the building. This practice is worthy of more than passing consideration.

A common belief prevailing amongst cowmen is that the straining of the milk through muslin is all that is required to free it from all impurities, which may have entered during the actual milking. Nothing is taken into consideration by them except those impurities which are apparent to the eye, *i.e.*, pieces of litter, hairs, etc. Soluble filth is overlooked.

When the grooming of cows is advocated cow-keepers generally smile at the suggestion. What would happen if the farmer drove to market or elsewhere behind a horse in as filthy a condition as his cow is allowed to get? No! CUSTOM ordains that the horse shall be properly groomed at least once every day. The same CUSTOM does not apply to the poor cow, which is allowed to remain coated, in parts, with filth, from the day it enters the cowshed in October, until it goes out to graze in April or May (according to weather conditions).

Milk Receptacles.

The major portion of the dirt found in milk comes from the cow's body during the process of milking.

Small-top pails are therefore preferable, *i.e.*, pails with a lid partially covering the top. In practice, however, the old open pail is generally used—a practice which dies hard. The great objection to the small top pail is that a quantity of milk is wasted, but after a while the milker would become accustomed to its use, and the waste become negligible.

Cowsheds.

Turning to the cowshed itself—in my opinion, and from experience, I consider the closed type of shed, advocated by the Board of Agriculture, a retrograde step.

The prevailing idea is that unless the cows are shut up in a stuffy atmosphere the production of milk will shew a marked decrease. This is certainly an illusion. I have come across farms with both “open” and “closed” types of shed, and the farmers are loud in their praises for the “open” sheds. The animals are healthier and the milk production well up to standard, both as to quantity and quality.

The planning of the yard and buildings is of paramount importance, and where possible the cowshed should face South or South-West. In some cases this is not permissible, but so long as the shed is built on the open style the main object will be achieved. Farm buildings should flank on either side, thus forming three sides of a square. A field gate and dwarf fence on the remaining side would complete the enclosing of the yard. The water supply should be provided by fixing a water trough away from the open cowshed. An impervious floor, and suitable mangers, with a plentiful supply of litter naturally follows. The cows should then be tied up only at milking times. During the remaining portions of the day and night they should be at liberty to roam at will in the yard. In the Summer the cows will naturally go out to graze in the fields, and be brought in only at milking time.

Where this type of cowshed exists in the Council's District I have always found the cows clean and free from the filth usually clinging to those stalled in closed sheds. In fact I invariably find that cows housed in so-called "model" cowsheds are among those which need the most supervision, and frequent visits of inspection. This of course leads to verbal, and written, warnings to cowmen and farmers alike, who invariably affect considerable surprise when the cowshed is adversely criticised.

Pasteurization.

Pasteurization is now generally recognized as necessary in the proper production of milk. This consists in heating it to 145°F. and holding it at that temperature for 30 minutes. This will reduce the number of bacteria very considerably. It will also reduce the number of Tubercle Bacilli, but it cannot be guaranteed to kill them all. No Pasteurizing temperature that is practicable will fulfil this condition.

A former method, known as the "Flash" system, consisted in heating the milk to 155° F., or higher, and then rapidly cooling. After exhaustive laboratory investigations had been made this system was found unsatisfactory. The

holding of the milk to the proper temperature, for a definite period, is absolutely necessary.

There does not appear to be a fixed standard for Pasteurization, except that it must be above the thermal death point of the organisms in the milk, and below the boiling point. This process kills the bacteria without affecting their spores, and produces practically no changes in the milk.

The Milk and Dairies Act, 1915, comes automatically into force next September, unless amended in the meantime.

This Act aims at the prevention of contamination of milk supplies and gives drastic powers to Local Authorities for the enforcement of the provisions therein contained.

The following is a summary relating to the various matters dealt with under the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milk-shops Orders, and Regulations :—

Number of Registered Cowkeepers, etc.	...	...	139
„ „ Cows kept (average)	...	...	1678
„ „ Visits paid during the Year	...	...	328
„ „ Sheds improved in lighting and Ventilation			18
„ „ „ „ „ Paving and Drainage			15
„ „ „ „ „ Limewashed after Notice or Verbal Request	...	...	26

One Statutory Notice was served to enforce the provisions of the Regulations as to Lighting, Ventilation and Drainage, and this was duly complied with.

Slaughter-houses and Food Supplies.

There are 14 slaughter-houses now on the Register, of which 3 are registered ; the remainder are licensed annually.

During the year 72 st. 6 lbs. of unwholesome food were condemned as unfit for human consumption and destroyed. 40 st. (approximately) of tuberculous beef were seized on unlicensed premises, where the animal had been slaughtered.

A report was made to the Council on this case and a letter was sent, warning the person by whose authority it was carried out against a repetition of such an offence.

Frequent visits are paid at all times to premises on the Register, and Notices, where cleansing is found to be

necessary, are given verbally. On the whole cleansing is carried out at frequent intervals, and few cases arose during the year where this had been omitted.

The weekly cattle market at Horley is kept under observation and the animals inspected prior to the auction.

Several instances of promiscuous slaughtering on unlicensed premises were brought to notice, but, with one exception, no evidence could be obtained, although the particular premises were kept under observation for varying intervals.

At the December meeting an application was received for a slaughter-house licence at Mason's Bridge Road in the Horley Parish. This was granted and should prove a distinct benefit to the neighbourhood generally, where formerly no facility was obtainable.

Knackers Yard.

One application for a Knackers Licence was received and granted. The premises were found to be kept reasonably clean and in good repair.

Petroleum Acts.

The following table gives the number of Carbide of Calcium and Petrol Licences in force in each Parish :—

Parish.	No. of Licences.	Carbide of Calcium.	Petrol.
Betchworth	8	3	5
Buckland	—	—	—
Burstow	10	7	3
Chaldon	1	—	1
Charlwood	5	3	2
Chipstead	1	1	—
Gatton	1	—	1
Horley	20	11	9
Kingswood	7	4	3
Leigh	—	—	—
Merstham	5	2	3
Nutfield	8	2	6
Walton-on-the-Hill	3	1	2
	—	—	—
Total Licences	69	34	35
	—	—	—
Total Revenue	...	...	£12 10s. 0d.

Factories and Workshops.

The number of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces on the Register is 164. They are all inspected systematically, and, where necessary, notices (verbal or written), are given to remedy defects.

Five Notices were served on Tenants of Workshops, and were complied with.

The following details are obtained from the Register —

Factories (including Factory Laundries)	...	16
Workshops —Bakehouses	...	18
Laundries (Workshop)		9
Bootmakers	...	22
Tailors	...	4
Dressmakers	...	6
Others	...	21
		— 80
Workplaces	...	68
		—
Total	...	164
		—

The Defects found were as follows :—

Want of Cleanliness	...	5
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Outworkers.

Two lists were received from Metropolitan Boroughs respecting one outworker in the Tailoring trade. The premises were found on inspection to be quite suitable.

Other Matters.

One Notice was received from the Factory Inspector, relating to the omission of the periodical limewashing of a Bakehouse. This matter was attended to, and the work done by the tenant.

Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.

The provisions of your Bye-laws for Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc., used for human habitation, have been exercised.

There are several van-dwellers living within the district. The shortage of cottages is responsible for these emergency dwellings. The tenants frequently make application to me to find them other accommodation, and they themselves make every endeavour to obtain cottages, but so far without success.

The parents, and children, appear to be quite healthy, and from frequent inspections I have made, they seem to rather revel in the semi-outdoor life.

SUMMARY.

Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910.

Conditions Found on Inspection.

Water supply from main	405
„ „ „ wells, springs or rain water ...	64
„ „ insufficient or unwholesome	4
Houses having water closets with flushing apparatus ...	235
„ „ „ „ hand-flushed	13
„ „ pail or other earth closets	198
„ „ privies	23
Defective closets or nuisances from same	54
Drains connected with the sewer	179
„ „ „ cesspools	228
„ defective	30
„ None	62
Nuisances from cesspools	51
Insufficient lighting and ventilation of rooms ...	26
Overcrowding	7
Dampness of houses	48
Uncleanliness	112
General want of repair	113
Inadequate paving of yards	13
Insufficient ash-bins	47
Offensive accumulations	3

Result of Service of Notices.

Water provided from mains	...	...	...	4
Wells or tanks provided, repaired or cleansed			...	—
Water closets repaired	...	...	...	49
Privies replaced by E.C.'s or W.C.'s		...	...	20
Drains repaired or new drains laid		...	...	32
Cesspools cleansed or repaired	...	...	...	411
Efficient lighting and ventilation of rooms provided			...	24
Overcrowding abated	...	...	...	2
Dampness of dwelling houses remedied		...	...	47
Houses cleansed and whitewashed			...	106
„ generally repaired	...	...	...	100
Paving of yards provided or repaired			...	13
Covered ash-bins provided	...	...	...	47
Offensive accumulations removed		...	...	3

Inspections.

Inspections (including re-inspections) of dwelling houses	1,968
Inspections (including re-inspections) of dairies, cow-sheds and milkshops	328
Inspections (including re-inspections) of slaughter houses	162
Inspections (including re-inspections) of factories and workshops	188
Inspections (including re-inspections) of common lodging houses	Nil.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

F. E. TRAVISS,

Sanitary Inspector.